

# Northwestern Ontario

# FREE

# Outdoors



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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE



NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO  
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Photo By Rebekka Redd

# Fly Fishing for Northern Ontario's Popular Gamefish

By Rebekka Redd



**Thunder Bay is home for world renowned fly angler and television director Rebekka Redd.**

Wherever there is cool, clear water and a good supply of baitfish and crayfish, avid anglers are likely to find smallmouth bass and northern pike. And, whenever you hook a bass or pike, you're bound to see fantastic leaps and explosive energy unrivalled among freshwater fish. And our Northern Ontario waters offer the perfect destination to experience this action.

Smallmouth bass and pike are amongst my favourite species of fish to chase on the fly. Their aggressive nature and hard fighting abilities make them a challenge and a joy to pursue.

Where to catch bass and pike in lakes: Small mouth bass or as I call them "smallies", are commonly found in deep lakes with cool, clear waters and rocky bottoms. Shallow waters with gravel, cobblestones and big boulders provide spawning habitat during the spring and plenty of locations to hide. Bass camouflage well into this terrain and wait to ambush the unsuspecting baitfish or crayfish that share their rocky home. Early in the year look for shallow bays off the main lake where water will warm faster. Fish these areas with leech patterns and baitfish imitating streamers on slow sinking lines.

Points attract smallies throughout the year. Look for long, gradually tapering gravel points with bulrushes, or points made up of golf ball to baseball sized rock. Some other isolated structure along the point such as a rock outcropping, fallen tree or weed bed will make it an especially desirable spot for smallmouth. Rocky shoreline surrounded by deep water can be very productive in summer and fall. Drop offs and mid lake humps are good deep water spots to explore. The best humps taper gradually rather than plunge sharply into the depths and feature other structural elements such as large boulders or weeds. Points, drop offs, and other underwater structures can be great places to fish full sinking lines and hop crayfish patterns or jig style streamers along the bottom.

Weed lines can also hold smallmouth bass, especially in the summer months when they are green and healthy. Edges, points or pockets in a weed bed all make good casting targets when searching for hungry smallies. Some of my favorite fishing days every year are spent throwing weedless popper flies to bass that are tucked into weed beds. Don't overlook submerged weeds. A streamer pulled over the top of deep weeds on an intermediate or slow sinking line can be deadly for bass that are hunkered down on a hot day or after a cold front.

Pike can be found in many of the same in locations. In the spring, you will often find larger pike in shallow, weedy bays where they move in from deep water to spawn. Often fly fishing is one of the best ways to catch a trophy during this time by sight fishing to big fish with a lightweight streamer. As the water warms in the summer, the shallows typically only hold smaller pike. Larger pike move off to rocky points or drop offs. You may find them shallow, but they will seldom be in areas where there isn't immediate access to deep water. Much like smallmouth, you will often find large pike patrolling deep weedbeds, lake humps, and boulder strewn points leading to deep water. Rock structure is especially important in lakes with little weed or wood cover. It only takes a few boulders to attract pike. Sinking lines and large flies with a lot of flash and movement are the norm for summer pike relating to deep structure.

Pike are an ambush predator and they will lay silently under cover until a bass, or almost any other creature it can fit its mouth around swims close by. When a pike decides to take your fly, nothing will change its mind! However, pike are not always willing takers. The big trophy pike may well be one of the toughest (just behind muskies) of all Northern Ontario game fish to fool. Focus on areas near deep water and always fish close to structure. Even if you locate a large pike, getting it to hit is another matter. A great trick is to always strip your fly right to the end of the leader, and learn the figure 8 pattern when fishing for pike and muskies. It is excellent at triggering a hesitant follower to strike the fly. To accomplish the figure 8, strip your fly until you get to the leader and then put your rod tip in the water and draw a big, wide figure 8 pattern several times before lifting out for another cast. Expert anglers claim the rapid change of direction stimulates a predatory response from unwilling or wary pike and muskies.

Pike have boney mouths, so sharp hooks are an absolute must! Many times big pike fly hooks are dull out of the package, so it is imperative to check and sharpen your hooks regularly while fishing.

*Rebekka Redd is a full time global traveling professional fly angler/TV host with a background in film making. Her shows can be found on World Fishing Network, WildTV, PBS and The Outdoor Channel. Reach her at Email: RebekkaReddMedia@gmail.com*



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Davis Viehbeck assaults summertime walleyes with his seek and destory techniques.

# Summer Walleye

## "Seek and Destroy"

By Davis Viehbeck

Fishing for walleye goes hand in hand with the summer months soon to be upon us here in Northwestern Ontario so here are a few of my favourite approaches for putting "marble eyes" in the boat. Whether I'm fishing a new body of water or a lake I'm highly familiar with, I like to use a two-step approach for catching fish, a technique I refer to as "Seek and Destroy!"

**How to Seek** - In the earlier part of summer, namely June into the first week of July, I'll focus my efforts on likely haunts like mid-depth soft bottom flats (8-18 feet), weed-lines and shallower boulder piles adjacent to deeper water. As the summer progresses, I'll try and follow the fish and typically seek out deeper water focusing on main-lake points, deeper shorelines and off-shore reefs.

Regardless of whether you're fishing up shallow or down deep, covering water is the name of the game and I'll use three approaches for tracking down fish 99% of the time. These three techniques include casting and trolling crankbaits, casting with jigs tipped with soft-plastics or live-bait and bottom bouncing. All of these methods can be tailored to the depth of water you're fishing. As an example, if the fish are up shallow, I'll typically cast a suspending jerkbait like a Berkley Cutter 90+ or Husky Jerk, throw a jig and plastic combo like a Berkley Pro Shad or 3" Power Grub rigged on a jig or troll a 1 to 1 1/2 ounce bottom bouncer with a spinner rig and a Gulp! Nightcrawler, leech or minnow.

If the fish are deeper, I'll back off the shallow structure or hover around deep structure and use similar baits that allow me to fish deeper. In place of a jerkbait, I'll troll a deeper running crankbait like the 9cm and 11cm Flicker Minnow, a Deep Diving Husky Jerk or Taildancer. Instead of a light-weight bottom bouncer, I'll just increase the weight of my bouncer according to the depth, usually going up to a 2 or 2 1/2 ounce version.

**How to Destroy** - Once I catch a fish or two, I'll always fish with more precision to make sure I take advantage of other walleye in the school. One of the first things I do is toss out my marker buoy and drop a waypoint on my graph so that I can stay right on top of the fish. If your boat doesn't have a GPS chartplotter, the marker buoy will keep you on the fish just fine. If your boat has a GPS unit and you want to be stealthy, save throwing out the marker buoy and just drop a waypoint or two to stay on the fish.

If the fish are shallow, I'll typically stick with casting jerkbaits and throwing a variety of jig and plastic combinations. Instead of fishing these baits quickly to cover water like I would when seeking out the fish, I'll focus on making repeated casts to likely spots and adjusting my retrieve to the mood of the fish. I love fishing these shallow fish with artificial baits in place of livebait as they're typically eager to bite and aren't as fussy as deeper fish. If the bite slows down, I may switch up to livebait or just move spots to find another group of active fish.

If the fish are deeper and somewhat concentrated, I'll focus on my electronics and make specific, slower passes over the fish using jigs tipped with bait or by bottom bouncing with a spinner rig tipped with some form of artificial bait or live bait. When fishing deeper water, staying on top of the fish and ensuring you're presenting your bait as vertically is possible will increase your ability to detect bites and put more fish in the boat.

**The Gear** - Although I'm a bit of a rod and reel junky, you really only need two combos for the "Seek and Destroy" approach for catching summer walleye. The first rod and reel setup is a 6'6" to 7' medium-action spinning rod like an Abu Garcia Venerate or Fenwick Elite Tech Walleye rod paired with a mid-sized spinning reel loaded up with a no-stretch superline like Fireline or Spiderwire Stealth Braid in 10lb test. This combo will allow you to throw jerkbaits and jig combinations to shallow fish and is perfect for presenting a jig vertically for fish set up in deeper water. For trolling cranks and bottom bouncing, a 7' to 8'6" medium to medium-heavy action casting rod paired with a low-profile baitcast reel is perfect. A few favourites include the 7' medium action Fenwick Elite Tech Walleye rod and the 8'6" Fenwick HMX. I'll match these rods with an Abu Garcia Revo baitcast reel spooled up with 14lb test braided line.

Whether you're hitting a favourite lake this summer or trying out some new water, don't forget to "Seek and Destroy".

*Davis Viehbeck is a fishing promoter and outdoor writer based out of Thunder Bay, Ontario.*



# Overnighter for Steelhead on Lake Superior's North Shore

*By Samantha Boyce*

***Samantha Boyce is an avid angler and outdoor writer from Thunder Bay.***



When the Steelhead run is on and you hit the river, it's an experience you won't soon forget. As a passionate and dedicated Steelhead Angler I've put in my fair share of time on the rivers during some of the best and worst conditions. This sometimes meant my "hotel room" would be on the riverbanks and shores of Lake Superior, home to some of the most beautiful water to fish for Steelhead.

I usually make an overnight camping trip once a year during the Steelhead run, if I'm lucky enough. This is paradise for me and for anyone who loves steelhead fishing alone. It doesn't get any better than this. Going to sleep with the sound of the river and the waves pounding at your beside and waking up to see the sunrise as your heading down the river paired with a coffee in hand. It makes me so appreciative to live in such a beautiful place with an amazing opportunity for fishing steelhead.

After many nights of planning we set on a river further East of Thunder Bay. Timing the run is a big part of being successful with these fish. In hopes to catch the run as the fish start moving up the river, we closely watched the water levels waiting for it to rise and the temperature to slightly warm up. With quite a bit of rain a couple nights before, the Steelhead would quickly be making their way up the river. At the mere thought of that, all of our gear was packed in a hurry and we were heading East.

Very well before the crack of dawn, the next morning the four of us hit the road. The boat was loaded with all our gear and we made the launch into frigid cold Lake Superior. It was a calm crisp morning which made it a very chilly boat ride, but our sights were already set on the possibility of fresh chrome steelhead ahead.

We made the journey to the mouth of the river and arrived at our campsite just after sunrise. The water levels were fairly high and not what we were hoping for, but still very fishable. There were a few other Fisherman down the shore from us who had already previously

set up camp. We weren't the only ones thinking the same thing.

After unloading all of our gear, we suited up in our waders & boots grabbed our gear and quickly raced back down to the river. It was go time.

There's something about that first few drifts that always gets my heart pounding. Waiting for the sight of my float to go down, and when it does it's the biggest adrenaline rush a steelhead fisherman can get.

Not to far from the mouth of the river and minutes after arriving at our selected spot , my partner had already connected on a very bright "chromer" that was a lively female. A quick picture was taken, and she was released back into the cold water. It's a such moment of beauty to watch this beautiful powerful fish swim away to continue her spawning ritual and fight another day.

It wasn't too long after that, I caught sight of my float going down and set the hook. Within seconds, my Centerpin fly reel was peeling out line and the fish took off down the river. This fish put up the most incredible fight and showed off her acrobatics a few times before I eventually landed & released her.

The fishing was spectacular over the next few hours. Even with a little bit of rain it didn't seem to bother anyone. There were plenty of smiles, quick pictures and a lot less roe bags. As the sun set that evening and darkness fell the fishing had come to an end and we were back on our way.

The best part in all of this is we did not have to leave the river. We all gathered around the campfire reminiscing the days adventures and best catches, while enjoying delicious food and cold beers. Our waders were hung beside the fire to dry and everyone crawled into our chilly tents after a long adventurous day of fishing. The next morning we would wake up with the steelhead and do it all over again.

# Go Anywhere!

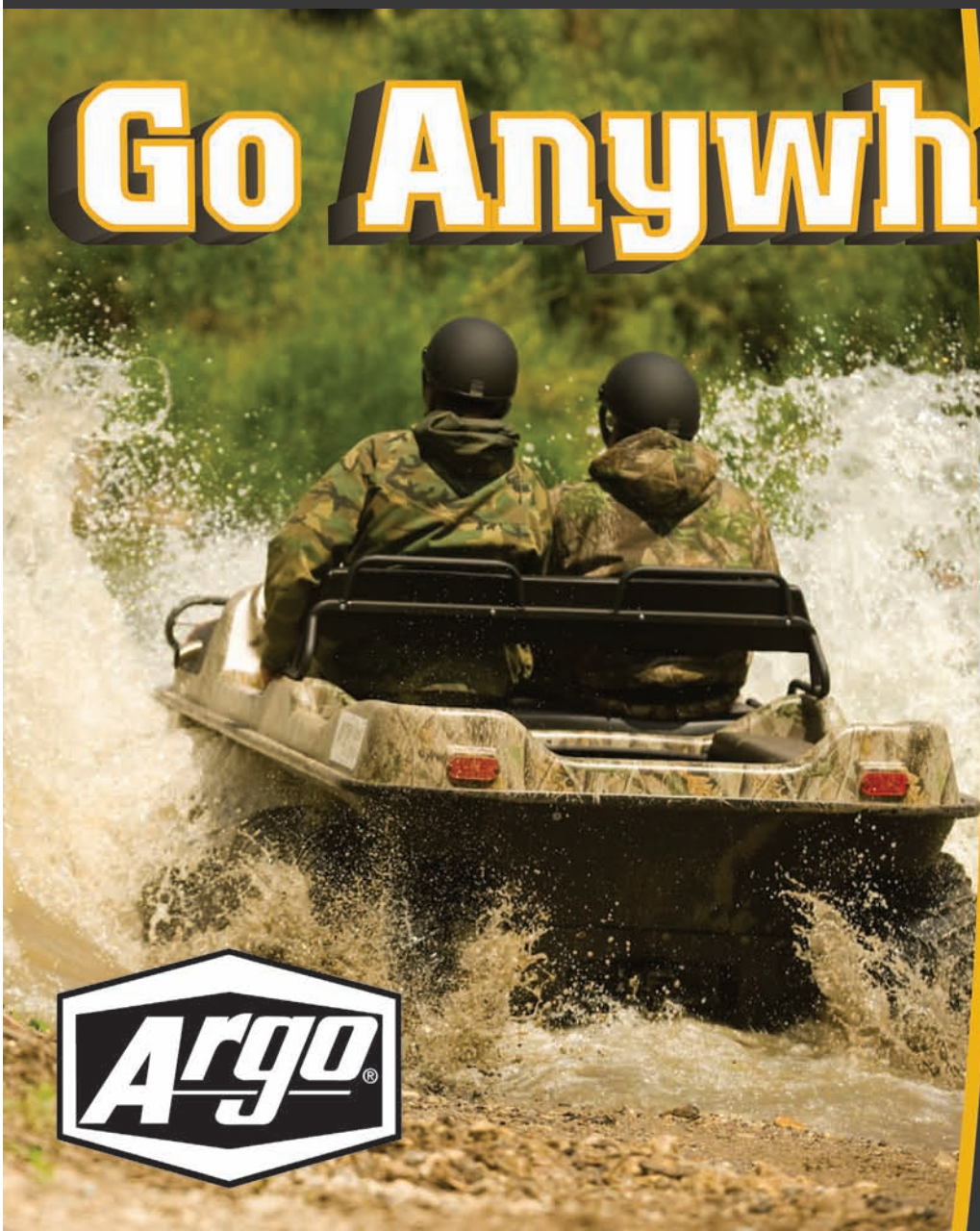


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**THIS  
MONTH'S  
NEWS**

## OMNR back tracks on Moose Management

The past two years has seen extensive consultation by OMNR to supposedly conduct meaningful policy change for the purpose of turning around a declining trend in our moose population. Phase I and Phase II were touted as OMNR's policy steps towards addressing moose population declines in many northern WMU's within the province. However it now appears that OMNR has done little more for moose than to simply address resident moose hunting regulations.

Last year, under Phase I of the moose project direction, moose hunters saw changes come into effect that limited calf hunting to a special two week season that began two weeks later than the season opening date in October for rifle. This move was not popular with moose hunters. It was a policy change that NOSA supported, only because OMNR had also agreed to address other key factors such as predation and habitat management under Phase II of the moose project. This is where moose management appears to have fallen off of OMNR's radar screen.

The two key factors that were not addressed with any form of management/policy change as per Phase I of the moose project are: predation and habitat management. These two key elements were specifically identified along with other factors throughout the Moose Project stakeholder workshops and on various Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) postings. Granted, these factors are more challenging and potentially costly in terms of research funding however that should not mean that they should not be adopted. The moose population decline continues, and the loss of this valuable wildlife resource is already costing northern Ontario a lot in terms of lost tourism revenue and also in terms of resident hunting opportunity.

OMNR however has recently backed away from an EBR proposal that would have seen wolves placed exclusively onto a small game license (currently hunters are required to buy a small game lic. AND a separately purchased tag for a wolf). The move toward replacing wolves back onto a small game license was a mild attempt toward increasing the number of legally harvested wolves and it was widely supported by hunters and trappers, mainly because it was in no way going to threaten the sustainability of the wolf population.

However the Peaceful Parks organization based out of Toronto argued that the OMNR was going to conduct a "cull of wolves" in Ontario. Peaceful Parks began a propaganda type campaign that consisted of lies and rhetoric that was pitched to a southern Ontario mega media forum who lapped up the emotional but false claims of this group, rather than conduct an in depth investigative report that would have given the facts to the public. And the fact is, moose decline in Ontario is being aided by a large population of wolves that are the result of a large population of whitetail deer (a primary food source of wolves) across much of the range of the moose in parts of northern Ontario.

NOSA will continue to lobby for intensive moose management direction that includes a more aggressive wolf and predator management strategy in addition to a moose habitat management policy that reflects the need to purposefully manipulate forestry operations to encourage moose population growth.

## NOSA 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Northwestern Ontario Sportsmen's Alliance will host its annual general membership meeting on June 22nd at the Westfort Prosvita Hall/Gore street at 700pm. The meeting is open to all "paid in full" members of NOSA. Specifics of agenda items will be announced that evening, along with election of new directors. There will be an open forum for members and new business items can be introduced at this time. For further specifics on meeting details, please contact John Kaplanis via email at: kaplanis@tbaytel.net or by text at 807-624-6143.

## NOSA Presents Police Youth Corps Award



Police Youth Corps constable Dakota McLean accepts the 2016 Marksmanship award presented by NOSA Executive Director John Kaplanis during the 23rd Annual Inspection of the Thunder Bay Police Youth Corps. NOSA also provides full financial subsidy for all Police Youth corps members who successfully complete the Ontario Hunter Education and Firearms Safety course.

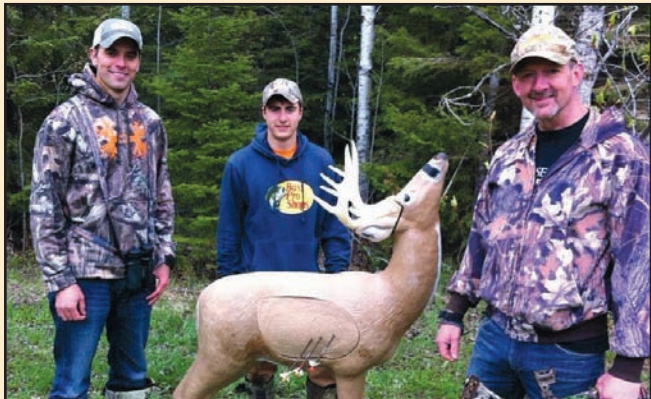




## THIS MONTH'S NEWS

# NOSA Sponsors 3D Rubber Boot Shoot

By Lisa Dampier



The annual Lakehead Archers Rubber Boot Shoot, happening May 28 and 29, is one of the longest-standing traditions at this club. For decades, it has kick-started the local 3D archery season and is one of the most well-attended tournament each year, often seeing up to 100 archers take part over the two days.

Its name is no coincidence; while the spring weather is unpredictable in Thunder Bay, most archers come prepared for the usually wet and muddy conditions with rubber boots, rain gear, and plenty of bug spray. This year is shaping up to live up to its reputation. Despite the soggy terrain, organizers always set up a fantastic course with challenging and fun targets including the use of blinds and tree stands to add to the experience.

NOSA and D&R Sporting Goods are once again partnering as sponsors for this event with generous support and donations. Awards will be given for all age and equipment divisions including youth and adult compound, traditional and crossbow classes. There will also be many random draw prizes that all registered shooters are eligible to win. You don't have to be a member of Lakehead Archers to participate, but you do need to have your own archery equipment.

The cost to shoot for members is \$15 per adult and \$10 per child under 18, while non-members pay \$5 more. There is also a family max of \$40 for members and \$55 for non-member families (immediate dependent children included) to make it even more reasonable for families to participate together.

More information can be found on our website @ [www.lakeheadarchers.com](http://www.lakeheadarchers.com) as well as on our Facebook page. We hope to see many new and veteran archers out again this year!

## NOSA 2016

# Sportsman/Sportswoman of the Year Awards!

At the 18th Annual Northwestern Ontario Sportsmen's Alliance(NOSA) fundraising dinner, two awards were handed out by Executive Director John Kaplanis. The 2016 Sportsman of the Year finalist is Matt Osborne. Matt is the instrumental publisher and advertising art guru who makes this very publication the success that it is 4 times a year for NOSA. This is takes a commitment to work professionally with NOSA to convey our messaging and voice, and for this effort Matt has been recognized.

The 2016 Sportswoman of the Year award recipient is Kathleen Ball. Katie is a director with the Northwestern Fur Trappers Assoc. (NWFTA) but she is also a hard working outdoors woman with a passion for advocacy. Her work in the fur industry has seen her evolve into a well known and respected artist and craftswoman, designing and making fine fur garments. This year she stepped up to assist in putting out a petition to combat Bill C-246 and she has also provided tremendous assistance to John Kaplanis as he prepared for the annual dinner event. Then Katie also assisted during the setup and on the night of the event. A hardworking lady like that does not go unrecognized by NOSA.

Thank you to both award recipients for your dedication and hard work. NOSA is lucky to have you both in our corner!



**Katie Ball receives her 2016 Sportswoman of the Year award from John Kaplanis.**



**Matt Osborne receives his 2016 Sportsman of the Year award from John Kaplanis.**

# Canadian Sportfishing Industry Assoc. calls out Feds over Animal Rights Bill C-246

On March 7th the Canadian Sportfishing Industry Assoc(CSIA) broadcast an alert to its extensive industry networks to call attention to a private member's bill introduced by Federal Liberal MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith of Toronto. The bill is touted by some Liberal supporters as legislation that will supposedly "modernize" animal protections in Canada, however opponents of the bill rightly call it a tool that will be used to systematically dismantle all "consumptive" forms of animal use in Canada, including hunting, fishing and trapping.

An activist coalition of Canadian and U.S. animal rights organizations with a decades-long history of sustained attacks on anglers and farmers quickly supported the private member's bill. Led by the International Fund for Animal Welfare of Yarmouth, Massachusetts(the group that targeted Ontario Spring Bear hunt in 1999) and the Toronto-based Animal Alliance of Canada(another animal rights group that lobbied to end Ontario's Spring bear hunt), these groups have once again come out in strong support of federal legislation which threatens a criminal charge, up to a \$10,000 fine and five years jail time for anglers who harvest a few fish for dinner.

However NOSA and a host of national conservation based organizations have joined the effort to support CSIA and we've had legal experts weigh in on analysing the proposed legislation and their conclusions are basically labeling this legislation as a "Pandora's box" because it is so poorly written, that if passed it would cause our legal system to be overwhelmed with ridiculous court challenges over perceived animal rights offenses.

Of particular concern is the following section:

182.1 (1) Everyone commits an offence who, willfully or recklessly,

(b) kills an animal or, being the owner, permits an animal to be killed, brutally or viciously, regardless of whether the animal dies immediately;

This section poses the same threat as the seven previous iterations of similar bills introduced by animal rightist leaning MPs. According to exhaustive legal opinions, for the first time in Canadian history this section would make it an offence to kill an animal brutally or viciously - without defining those terms - and does not exempt from this offence normal hunting, trapping and fishing activities. Hunting and fishing and trapping necessarily involve the killing of animals. Animal rights groups consistently attempt to portray these traditional Canadian heritage activities as inherently brutal and vicious. If Bill C-246 becomes law, this section will be used by animal rights activists who will employ provisions of the Criminal Code to bring private prosecutions to harass lawful anglers, trappers and hunters.

What can you do to prevent this private member's bill from being passed into law? Contact your local MP by telephone, email and written letter and tell them NO to Bill C-246. Your voice counts! Don't sit idle on this one! Make sure you let federal MP's know you are opposed to Bill C-246.



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# Rubber Boot Shoot

Sponsored by **NOSA**  
and **D & R Sporting Goods**

**Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> and/or  
Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
(shoot both days if desired, 2<sup>nd</sup> round ½ price)

**Outdoor 3-D Archery Shoot**  
**Features 30 life-size 3D targets**  
**Moose, Elk, Caribou, Bear, Dinosaurs,  
Deer and many more!!**

**Shoot times - Saturday 10am to 4pm\*\*  
- Sunday 10am to 2pm\*\***  
**\*\* - last group must head out by this time**  
**Competitive and Recreational Divisions**

**Plenty of Random Draw Prizes!!**  
(draws will take place on Sunday at 4:00 - you do not have to be in attendance to win but must collect your prize prior to next shoot)

**Shoot fees:**

Adult member - \$15  
Youth member - \$10  
Adult non-member - \$20  
Youth non-member - \$15

**For more information contact: lakeheadarchers@tbaytel.net**

# Double Header

## Spring Bear Hunt Adventure

By Rich Brochu, Team NOSA Member

The last two years of the pilot spring bear hunt have passed and now we are headed for a more inclusive spring bear hunt that all hunters would applaud. Resort owners, outfitters and hunters are pleased that the Ontario government has taken initiative to allow a sustainable big game spring bear hunt. This initiative will help the management of bears, reduce predation on our dwindling moose herd, as well as stimulate income for those who depend on theses natural resources for their livelihood.

Being an avid hunter, I have taken advantage of the past two spring bear hunts. My first attempt was unsuccessful but last year's hunt proved to be one to remember. My usual hunts for bears involved the spot and stalk approach in blueberry fields. This always took place in the fall when bears gorge themselves on ripe berries. A spring bear hunt however, would take a little more homework on my part.

The first order of business was baiting for the bruins. Anyone that has baited for deer know that pre-fall bears will come and raid your bait sites and ensure deer keep a wide berth. Knowing this, I set up my bear baits in similar areas that had produced fall bears. I utilized the same type of feed with some added goodies. I bait with old frying oil, molasses, corn, fish scraps and a few bags of the cheapest dog food I could find. Luckily bears are not picky; they will eat just about anything. Some hunters will set up a chained barrel with the feed placed in it to attract bears. This method will cause the bear to work a little harder for his forage.

The next step I take is to place a few cameras near my bait site to see when the bruins were coming in to feed. Secure your cameras well as bears are notorious for ripping your cameras off the trees. Some say the smell of the batteries attracts them, but curiosity can also be the cause. Another reason may be the smell of your hands after handling the bait. Either way, cameras will be investigated by the curious beasts. In my experience more day time pictures will be taken in the spring than fall.

With theses bases covered it was time for my second spring bear hunt. I headed out with my brother after having baited for a few weeks and saw half a dozen bears on camera hitting my bait sites. Being able to witness this much activity made me excited for the hunt that would take place. I offered my partner a choice of the two sites I had previously set up and the hunt was on. He chose the ground blind and I headed for my trusty tree stand. It was a cool evening with the temperatures declining quickly from the day's rays.

A rustling in the trees quickly increased my heartbeat as my thoughts had drifted off to other hunts I had enjoyed. Within seconds two bears appeared and headed straight for the bear bait. Both were in the two hundred and fifty pound range and both had food on their minds. The dominant bear sat and started eating first as the second bear circled the area. My crosshairs found the sweet spot on the second bear and I slowly squeezed the trigger. The bear bolted into the bush as my shot placement found its mark. Surprisingly the first bear jumped up at the shot but remained by the food. Within seconds he started to eat again.

Now what? This bear was intent on eating! I banged against my tree stand, yelled a couple times but the bear did not budge. Instead it looked up at me and kept eating. My brother texted me to ask if I had taken a bear and I informed him of my predicament. Being stuck in the tree stand with a bear no more than twenty yards from me made me a little nervous. Obviously this bear had no fear and food was his first priority. I quickly asked my brother if he was Ok with me filling his tag. I had run out of options and had maybe half an hour of light left. The OK was given and I put my sites on the second bruin and squeezed off a round. The bear bolted and expired no more than thirty yards away. I informed my brother of the double header and asked him to bring the ATV to remove the bruins from the area. After a few high fives we collected both bears and headed for the cabin.

Bear hunting can be a great adventure. It's good to know the population is healthy and sustainable. Harvested bears must be reported and sows with cubs are not to be hunted during the spring bear hunt. Spring bear hunting is now part of my hunting experiences and something I look forward to. The meat is leaner in the spring compared to fall and can make great table fare. Get out and enjoy the outdoors this spring, it's great to see the forest come to life.



# NOSA Welcomes 2016 Can-Am Games Archery Events to be hosted at Lakehead Archers Club

By Joe Dampier

The Can-Am Police and Fire Games are a bi-annual event bringing First-Responders and Correctional Officers and their spouses from around the world to compete in a variety of sporting and recreational events. Thunder Bay won the rights to the host the 2016 event July 16-24, marking only the 7th time the games have been held in Canada since their inception in 1977.

One of the games mandatory events is Archery and early in the bid process Lakehead Archers (one of Canada's oldest continuous running archery clubs) stepped up and did whatever they could to ensure Thunder Bay would have the opportunity to put on the best games ever! Lakehead Archers also aligned with Team NOSA and D&R, two long-time club sponsors to ensure that every competitor walks away a winner.

On July 18th all of the hard work will pay off with the first of three Archery events being held at the local club on Vibert Road in Oliver-Paipoonge. 3D Archery, long a local favorite, is the first event and will challenge the skills and abilities of archers as they take to the woods in pursuit of 30 life-size 3 dimensional animal targets set at unknown distances. The targets each have scoring rings built into the target, and the archer who can best estimate yardage AND execute the perfect shot will find their way to the podium.

The local organizers are following 2012 host St. Cloud, MN's lead by bringing back the indoor target event in the form of the Vegas 300 round. The Vegas round consists of 30 arrows shot at a paper target set at a distance of 20yds. The archer can choose to shoot a single spot target with a descending value of 10 to 1 scoring value rings or a 3 spot target which has 3 separate scoring areas with values of 10-9-8-7-6. Each competitor will shoot two com-

plete scores (total of 60 arrows) with the combined value determining the order of finish.

The third day of competition will once again have the archers heading outdoors as they challenge the outdoor target event. The precision of indoor target brought amongst the elements with substantial increases in distance will put all of the archers skills to the test.

The Outdoor target event consists of thirty arrows shot at each of three distances 60m, 50m and 40m with the furthest distance shot first. The 900 round challenges not only an archer's accuracy but also their focus and stamina. The ability to maintain good form and put 90 arrows where they need to be challenges even the best shooters and their equipment.

In speaking of equipment, all of the archery events have multiple equipment divisions available to enter. This helps ensure that everyone is able to compete on a relatively equal playing field. Divisions range from Traditional to Open; check out the games official rules or more information on all of the event rules and equipment divisions at [thunderbaycanam.com](http://thunderbaycanam.com)

A great opportunity to get some practice and also check out the facilities at Lakehead Archers and learn about the various events is the upcoming Rubber Boot 3D shoot sponsored by NOSA and D&R Sporting Goods at Lakehead Archers on May 28th and 29th. Thirty 3D targets will be set amongst the woods and fields of the club with targets ranging from moose, deer and bear to dinosaurs and alligators. We will also have the indoor and outdoor targets set so you can see what those events are about and will have representatives available to answer any questions you may have.

It's not too late to register for the games and there is plenty of time to dust off your bow and start practising. Let's make this the best games ever!!



# Can-Am Police/Fire Anglers Take on the Mighty Kam River

By Greg Stein

Thunder Bay is set to host the 2016 Can-Am Police-Fire Games this summer, July 16-24. The games are open to all first responders, police, fire, ems, active and retired members and their spouses. The games are sponsored by the City of Thunder Bay and Generator Advertising & Design in support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay and Thunder Bay Special Olympics Ontario.

One of the events, Angling, will pit anglers from across North America against the Kaministiquia River. A regular host to fishing events such as the Angler Young Angler, the Kam River is known to be inhabited by some trophy fish.

The Tournament will be a one day event held on Friday, July 22nd and will see up to 40 teams of two anglers vie for Bronze, Silver and Gold medals and of course bragging rights. Walleye will be the species focused on and it will be a catch, photograph, release format utilizing rules similar to the AIM Walleye Series. Denny Fox, National Tournament Director for the AIM Weekend Walleye Series has granted approval for use of their Walleye weight conversion chart. The aim of this tourney is to live release the fish back to the river so other anglers may enjoy the thrill of the catch. Any fish not likely to survive release must be retained by the anglers and counted as part of their total catch of six fish per team.

"The Kam River is a natural for such an event," says local fishing expert Sandro Fragale. "It was chosen due to its close proximity to the city and available large parking area and excellent launch on Mission Island."

The Can-Am Games are held every two years by host cities across North America and actually draw competitors from across the world. The last Angling event for the games was held in 2012 in St. Cloud, Minnesota, where bass was the fish of choice. Angling took a hiatus in 2014 with the games in York, Pennsylvania so fishermen/women are excited about its return.

The Angling event is co-sponsored by D&R Sporting Goods and NOSA, two big names in fishing in North Western Ontario.

Space remains for competitors and volunteer opportunities exist, visit [thunderbaycanam.com](http://thunderbaycanam.com) for more details. Organizers are hoping the Kaministiquia River comes through and offers up some monsters so medals are won and fond memories are made of the event, the city and the Mighty Kam.



## TEAM NOSA



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# BIG SHOTS + BIG FISH

Off duty responders from North America and beyond will let loose and enjoy the incredible terrain and opportunity of Northwestern Ontario lakes, rivers, and forest trails during the 3D archery and fishing tournaments at this summer's Can-Am Police-Fire Games.

**FRIDAY, JULY 22** – A day on the water making friends while jigging lines. Forty 2-person teams of anglers launch bright and early from the Mission Island Boat Launch to compete for the most weight of 6 fish in a catch, record, release tournament.

**MONDAY, JULY 18** – A day on the trails meeting new folks while chasing arrows. Come to Lakehead Archers' beautifully treed trails to see how Can-Am participants tackle the challenge of 3D with 28 Rinehart animal targets on course.

► For full games info or to get involved visit [thunderbaycanam.com](http://thunderbaycanam.com)



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